

The June 2004 General Meeting of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board was held Saturday, June 19, 2004 in Atlanta City Council Committee Room 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Atlanta City Hall, 55 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303

**1. CALL TO ORDER** ..... Peggy Harper, President

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am.

**2. INVOCATION** ..... President called for a Moment of Silence

**3. ROLL CALL** ..... Wendy Scruggs-Murray, Citizen Participation Coordinator

President asked Delegates to Introduce themselves and give their NPU, after which Ms. Scruggs-Murray announced a quorum was present.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

George Dusenbury – Executive Director, Park Pride, highlighted a new program called the Neighborhood Small Grants Program. Park Pride will provide up to \$500 in matching funds to buy mulch, plant trees, etc. They have allocated \$500 for each NPU to divide as it sees fit. The minimum grant amount is \$100. There is also a pool of \$500 annual grants available at large. Applications are due in September or March. In addition, Mr. Dusenbury spoke about a new volunteer project built along the lines of Hands On Atlanta, where Park Pride would work with neighborhoods to come in, identify needs, and work on a project. Finally, Mr. Dusenbury announced that they are working to organize individuals interested in park issues. He distributed a sign-in sheet so people could request information about parks.

Mr. Carey Duncan (NPU-W) advised APAB that the Atlanta City Council is rewriting the sign ordinance. In his opinion, the current ordinance is one of the strongest in the United States, but the Atlanta Police Department has failed to enforce it. Anne Fauver has been in charge of the rewriting, and it removes the Police Department from the enforcement area. Enforcement will fall to the Department of Public Works. President Harper assigned the issue to the Public Safety Committee, chaired by Garry Long

Maleika Berry – Staff Member, Hands on Atlanta, asked APAB to partner with Hands on Atlanta on several neighborhood capacity-building projects. Hands on Atlanta has a Citizens Academy which is meant to connect volunteers and leaders in issues. They also do a lot of grant-writing workshops designed to teach grant writing skills. President Harper referred Ms. Berry to Darrin Collins, Co-Chair of the Community Development/Human Resources Committee.

**5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES** .... Conne Ward-Cameron, Recording Secretary

The minutes were not available due to an e-mail difficulty

**6. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS** ..... Peggy Harper

President Harper read from her prepared report (copy attached). In addition to her printed report, she commented on:

- City Council Technical Advisory Group: Public Vending – President Harper announced she has created an ad hoc committee to look into the best management system to recommend for Atlanta's parks and appointed Garry Long [NPU-O] as its chairperson. She then called on Garry Long, NPU-O, to report on the recent tour of Chicago which he and other APAB reps participated in along with Councilmember Caesar Mitchell and Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen. The trip was to learn about Chicago's Park District vending program. Mr. Long stated that, in Chicago, a consultant manages the vending program. Since they started this, they've seen a huge increase in vendor revenue, as well as an increase in fee income. The APAB representatives also met with the Chicago Park District personnel,

including one Park District Commissioner, to understand how their system works. One plus of their system is that when there are city budget problems, the District is immune from those stresses. The group is scheduled to meet on July 22 at Commissioner Cohen's quarterly parks chairs meeting. President Harper commented that Chicago has a natural draw to its parks in that many of them are along Lake Michigan. Vice President Ed Gilgor asked Mr. Long about the vending program and protection against nepotism. Mr. Long said that they did not ask about that specifically. Mr. Gilgor asked that the committee remain aware of this issue and as the parks group travels to other cities. He also asked about how they would compare the cities they plan to visit such as Birmingham and Charlotte to Atlanta, and are they looking to find cities which would have comparable problems such as infrastructure issues. President Harper responded that visits to other cities are to see how they do things and to find best practices. Vice President Gilgor made a last statement about the structure of the proposed body and asked that it be a system that is weighted not just towards "mega"-parks but that it have an equal interest in the smaller pocket parks.

- parking issues facing APAB and NPU volunteers when they come to City Hall to handle their neighborhood business. Basically, there is no place for them to park and asked the Commissioner to see if relief can be found.

## **7. APAB COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7A. EXECUTIVE ..... ED GILGOR, VICE PRESIDENT  
(404) 659-1951; npu.wchair@eaca.net

Vice President Gilgor reported that the Executive Committee met on June 9. He remarked on Councilmember Anne Fauver's Alcohol Technical Advisory Group and asked that notice be given to Garry Long as Public Safety Chair and Wendy Scruggs-Murray. The Executive Committee took action on APAB appointments that are currently open. First, for the License Review Board, the Committee recommends appointing President Harper to that board to serve out Warren Bruno's unexpired term. He called for vote of the delegates present in support of Ms. Harper's appointment. The vote in favor was unanimous. The second appointment is to the Atlanta Development Authority and the Committee recommends that Barney Simms continue to serve in that position. VP Gilgor also called for a vote by the delegates in support of Mr. Simms' appointment. There were three votes in opposition, but the majority vote was in favor. Vice President Gilgor went on to speak about Commissioner Graves' request that we work with him on how to improve the NPU system, requesting members provide him with input on the matter. Vice President Gilgor also acknowledged the work of Councilmember Archibong who expedited the recent repair of the sidewalks in East Atlanta.

7B. CITY UTILITIES ..... DR. JACKIE ECHOLS, CHAIRPERSON  
(404) 609-9517-H; jmechols@bellsouth.net.

Chairperson Echols reported on their recent meeting. The main topic was the upcoming 1% MOST sales tax referendum. The Committee created a position paper which was distributed to the body (copy attached). In summary, the paper, as distributed, raises six (6) important issues the Committee feels Atlanta's citizens need to be aware of: (1) the Mayor is not committed to a dollar-for-dollar rollback; (2) the revenue will be used to roll back rates for all users of the system; (3) the state legislation caps the amount of tax paid by the hotel and motel industry; (4) the legislation exempts the sales of motor vehicles; (5) grocery purchases are subject to the 1% tax; and (6) even if there is a roll-back, the Committee feels that it will not be dollar-for-dollar because there is no guarantee the revenue shortfall will be made up by the sales tax. Corresponding Secretary Schreiber

suggested a language change to the second concern in the document. Barney Simms, NPU-R, also suggested a language change on the first concern, which generated an extended discussion. President Harper took a vote on the proposed language for changing point 1. The majority votes were in favor of changing the language from "If the Mayor was" to "if the City of Atlanta was ..." There was discussion on Mr. Schreiber's suggested language changes to the second point, but no action was taken on this. The vote on the position paper was in favor of supporting it.

7C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES..... RAUH / COLLINS , CO-CHAIRPERSON  
Richard Rauh (404) 892-2833; rraugh@mindspring.com  
Darren Collins (404) 755-8644; Darren\_L\_Collins@progressive.com

Committee did not meet this month.

7D. FINANCE..... BARNEY SIMMS, CHAIRPERSON  
(404) 344-1234; barney.simms@atlantahousing.org

Chairperson Simms asked for definite plans for the proposed retreat in order to be able to raise funds for the event. The President indicated the Executive Committee would provide them.

7E. PUBLIC SAFETY ..... GARY LONG, CHAIRPERSON  
(404) 523-2500-o; (404) 222-0848-h; (404) 285-6161-c; NPUO30317@aol.com

Chairperson Long attended the recent Alcohol Technical Advisory Group meeting held on Friday, June 18. He reported that the TAG will not be dealing with bar hours. The group is looking at parking issues, and is looking at the application processes for both alcohol and business licenses. Vice President Gilgor asked that the documents prepared by this group be distributed electronically to Ms. Scruggs-Murray to distribute to the NPUs.

7F. TRANSPORTATION ..... SAUNDI WILSON, CHAIRPERSON  
(404) 562-9504; saundijolane@excite.com

Chairperson Wilson asked that everyone go to the Atlanta Regional Commission and MARTA websites to see what studies and plans are in play that affect their neighborhood. ARC wants to conduct small focus group meetings to discuss mobility issues. They plan to put forward their draft in September. There is a virtual meeting link on the ARC website. Corresponding Secretary Schreiber brought up the Beltline proposal and suggested that neighborhoods all along the Beltline look at the study which is available online. He will be e-mailing the link to the study shortly. He stated there are many changes from the original proposed plan and everyone should stay up-to-date. Ms. Wilson mentioned the recent meeting discussing the City of Atlanta transportation objectives, and that she would like the delegates to let her know what issues are of interest to them. Vice President Gilgor asked the Transportation Committee to consider developing a position paper for APB to send to ARC

7G. ZONING ..... DR. DAVID DORSEY, CHAIRPERSON  
(404) 755-9222; daviiddorsey2003@comcast.net

Chairperson Dorsey announced that the Zoning Committee met before the legislation to remove R-5 from the city code of ordinances was filed by City Council. That was a primary agenda item for the committee. In public hearings on the proposed legislation, objections were to having duplexes in single-family neighborhoods (because of aesthetics and "social class").

**APAB BOARD/TASK FORCE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**8A ATLANTA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY..... BARNEY SIMMS**

Mr. Simms that the body for their support as the APAB representative to ADA. He announced that several months ago a \$1million down payment assistance program for Vice City area residents affected by the floods was established by ADA. He wanted to let the body know that program is going very well. He also reported that a new development team has been put into place for the Historic Westside Village, of Trammel Crowell and Herman Russell. He provided minutes of the ADA meetings to the body through Ms. Scruggs-Murray.

**8B. ATLANTA RENEWAL COMMUNITY CORA, INC..... SULE CARPENTER / PEGGY HARPER**

Mr. Carpenter read from and expanded on his prepared report (copy attached). President Harper requested that until staff and a management group is in place, all questions regarding the Board's work be directed to the Board chair. Mr. Long asked how much money had been paid to ANDP and whether or not APAB could get a copy of the monthly HUD reports. President Harper responded that the legislation regarding ANDP specifies their fee shall not exceed \$400,000 and they have not been paid and the bill they submit must be scrutinized before they can be paid. She will ask the Board chair to share the reports Mr. Long requested.

**8C. ETHICS COMMISSION ..... GLORIA BROMELL-TINUBU**

President Harper stated she had covered the Ethic Commission in her report

**8D. LICENSE REVIEW BOARD ..... No Report**

**8E. IN-FILL HOUSING .....BILL HARRIS**

President Harper asked Commissioner Graves to verify if this task force is still in force, stating she is not aware of any task force meetings.

**8G. COMPENSATION COMMITTEE.....JULIAN BENE**

Mr. Bene was not present, but President Harper again urged the public to actively participate in this task force's work

**8G. TELEPAC ..... EARL DANIELS**

President Harper stated Mr. Daniels informed her he has not yet been contacted regarding this task force. She asked Commissioner Graves to took into this group as well.

**8 H. OTHER.....**

President Harper stated she believes Council has created some additional task forces that require APAB appointments, but has not received any information on them. She asked that she be provided with the procedures regarding notification of both newly created task forces and appointments that needed to be made.

**9. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COORDINATOR'S REPORT .....Wendy Scruggs-Murray**

Ms. Scruggs-Murray announced the Executive Committee has expressed interested in holding a retreat away from City Hall for APAB and asked for volunteers to assist in planning it. The theme will be "How Can We Better Serve the City of Atlanta?" The retreat will also include APAB by-law revisions She announced that a copy of the formal advisory opinion from the ethics. by laws review & political campaigning

**10. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT .....Charles C. Graves, III**

Commissioner Graves thanked NPU's D and F for their recent tours, and mentioned that he will be touring NPU's K and L next week.. He announced that the Bureau of Buildings has just initiated special permitting hours for homeowners and invited Norm Koplon, Director of the

Bureau of Buildings, to explain it further. President Harper said that since the new Deputy Commissioner for Planning and Community Development, Mr. James Shelby, could not be present, Mr. Koplon could have the "Commissioner of the Month" time slot. That way, after his presentation, the body could address any other questions they may have regarding the Bureau of Buildings and the Commission could finish his report. Commissioner Graves continued by reading from his prepared report (copy attached) He added for those interested in the American Dream Downpayment Initiative program should contact his office at 404-330-6070

# **11. OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS**

## **11A. RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READ**

None

## **11B. OTHER**

None

# **12. COMMISSIONER OF THE MONTH ..... NORMAN KOPLAN, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF BUILDINGS ..... DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Koplon reported that beginning July 6<sup>th</sup>, the Bureau will be open every other Tuesday from 4-8pm. These hours will be available exclusively for homeowners occupying the structure. It will not include neighborhoods in historic districts or in SPIs. It is an attempt to permit fences that don't require grading, interior alterations, second story additions to buildings within the same footprint, re-roofing, general repairs, and porch repairs.

Mr. Koplon also detailed the permitting process. He distributed a chart outlining the process, and photographs of the types of problems the inspectors encounter in the field. He spoke extensively on the Tree Ordinance, and concerns he has received from homeowners regarding trees near their homes which the homeowners feel are unsafe. President Harper the ad hoc greenspace committee to look into the matter.

Mr. Koplon also brought up several new ordinances being considered by City Council. One is related to parking and liquor establishments. A second is an effort by a City Councilmember to deal with infill housing.

President Harper asked about construction without a permit. Even though the Bureau of Buildings may issue a stop work order, the work does not stop. What can citizens do? She also asked about work which goes on when variances or special exceptions have not been granted, or when variances or special exceptions are in process. Mr. Koplon replied that work performed with out a permit is illegal and should be reported immediately to the building inspectors. Commissioner Graves added that permits can be checked online at the Department's website, and the department is working to provide opportunities for people to apply for and pay for permits online.

In response to a question from the body on when construction can be performed, he replied that it is allowed from 6am to 10pm. Citizens can call 404-330-6160 to report violations after hours or on weekends. When asked about intermittent streams, Director Koplon replied that there are 2 ordinances – one state and one municipal – which impact them, and the Department of Watershed Management should be contacted on issues regarding these streams. There is a draft building permit manual which has been sent to APAB's CD/HR committee for comment.

# **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
June 19, 2004**

**Computer & Electronic Recycling**

Dell Computers is partnering with the City of Atlanta's Environmental Department to host a Recycling Collection Event Saturday, June 26, 2004 at the Atlanta Civic Center. Flyers are on the table. Please circulate throughout your NPU. This is a great opportunity to get rid of obsolete personal electronic equipment.

**Atlanta City Council Actions**

When our elected officials take an action that we believe is wrong we are quick to censure but rarely do we publicly give them kudos for doing something right. This Monday, May 21st, the Atlanta City Council will consider several pieces of significant legislation which we should publicly commend them on. There is an Ordinance by District 5 Representative Natalyn Archibong which would give NPUs a voice when major renovations and additions/changes to the Master Plan for the City's regional parks, like Piedmont, Perkerson or Adams. Heretofore, these decisions were made without citizen input. A second very good ordinance, which was originally proposed by District 9 Representative Felicia Moore and has been co-authored by all but 1 of the remaining Council representatives, establishes and implements "Mattie's Call" which is an Amber Alert system for Alzheimer Patients. Those of us who can be present at 1:00 pm on Monday when the Council meeting starts should sign up to speak in support of these two worthy ordinances.

These and other legislative items of importance are briefly described on a Public Advisory handout on the table.

**NPU Conflict of Interest**

All NPU Chairs were mailed a copy of the Board of Ethics formal advisory on conflict of interest issues involving NPU Chairs. The first issue involved being a NPU Chair and a City of Atlanta Code Enforcement Officer and the second involved chairing an official meeting of the NPU as well as representing the NPU before a City agency on a zoning matter when the Chair's client is involved. In summary, the Board's position is that Chairs must reclude themselves from presiding over the meeting, from any discussions or voting on matters pertaining to their employment. In addition, the Chair must publicly disclose the nature of their involvement before a vote is taken on any matter that is directly pertinent to their employment. Each of us, as the duly elected representatives for our neighbors, are stewards of the public trust and, as such, are required to operate on a higher ground. To not do so not only puts each of you in jeopardy but also can jeopardize the rights and privileges of those you represent. Whether we like it or not, we do have to walk a very fine line. Let me add that, frankly, I am mystified at our colleague who chose to participate in the client-related matter. This individual has been an NPU officer far too long to have NOT known it was wrong to do so and should feel extremely fortunate that the Board didn't even give a slap on the wrist.

**Retreat**

We are looking into the possibility of a 2 day retreat sometime in the early fall. It would be at an established conference center and would require an overnight stay. Ms. Scruggs-Murray will go into more detail, but the Executive Committee welcomes volunteers to work this project.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**June 19, 2004**

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**Beltline Steering Committee**

The group toured the proposed beltline on Saturday, June 5, 2004 and will be entertaining bids for consultants to assist with the assessment and feasibility studies. a series of maps and related information is available for review over by the table.

**Hands On Atlanta Day**

Just a reminder, this event is October 2, 2004 and the deadline for applying to have projects included is June 30. I urge all of you to participate. It is a great way to improve the physical environment in your NPU.

**City Council Technical Advisory Group – Public Vending**

APAB paid for four individuals, Garry Long, Edna Mayberry, Cindy Dennis and Yvonne Smith, went to Chicago with Commissioner Graves, Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen, Council members C. T. Martin, Caesar Mitchell and H. Lamar Willis, and others. Thanks to our travel arrangements, we (the APAB group, Commissioner Cohen and Councilman Mitchell) were able to spend additional time with one of the Chicago Park Authority Commissioners and some of the CPA staff. As a follow-up to the trip, I am establishing an Ad Hoc Committee to come with suggestions on how to manage our existing parks, how the City can increase its green space and look at the feasibility of certain vending activities. This includes not only what is the best management system to use – a district, an authority, etc. – but also how to fund the activities as well as how to incorporate heritage tourism where appropriate. Mr. Long will now give you a report on the trip.

**Solid Waste Transfer Facility Task Force**

The task force has completed its work and the legislation is scheduled for a public hearing at the end of this month. Our Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Bob Schreiber, has actively participated on this task force since its inception and was one of the authors of the groups final product. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Schreiber for his diligence in this matter, for ensuring that there was public participation, not just public education, in the creation of these important pieces of legislation. Thank you Bob.

**Committee Chairs – Brief Meeting**

I would like all Committee Chairs to meet with me for no more than 5 minutes after we adjourn. This includes Mr. Schneider and Mr. Collins.

**Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST)**  
**Position Paper**  
**ABAP City Utilities**  
(As Adopted June 19, 2004)

The city of Atlanta is proposing a one cent Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST) as a way of reducing the financial impact of Atlanta's burdensome water/sewer rates. The sales tax is the most regressive of taxes because it takes more from those who can least afford it.

This position paper highlights important issues Atlanta's citizens should be aware of as they decide whether or not to support the MOST. Due to the negative impacts and serious fairness/equity issues associated with the proposed MOST, it is the recommendation of the APAB Utilities Committee NOT to support the one cent sales tax increase.

The APAB Utilities Committee has reviewed House Bill 709, passed by the Georgia General Assembly in April 2004. Issues of utmost importance to Atlanta's citizens are as follows:

1. **If the City were committed to a dollar for dollar roll back in existing water/sewer rates this language would have been included in the state authorizing legislation.** House Bill 709 authorizes the city of Atlanta to place the Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST) on the July 20, 2004 ballot for voter approval or disapproval. Wording of the state legislation is binding on the city. For this reason, language included in or omitted from the legislation is critical. The state legislation does not contain language which would require the city of Atlanta to use revenues from the MOST to roll back existing water/sewer rates on a dollar for dollar basis. Efforts by state Senator Vincent Fort to include specific roll back language failed because of opposition from Mayor Franklin. The Mayor contended she needs "flexibility" to determine how the sales tax revenues are used. City Council recently passed legislation which calls for a dollar for dollar roll back, and the Mayor signed it. Additional legislation is required to actually implement the roll back provision and there is no assurance that either the Council or the Mayor will pass the needed legislation. There are several factors which could prevent passage of legislation. Primary among these factors is the Mayor's veto power and the ability of the Council to override a veto which requires a super majority of Council members (ten votes).
2. **Revenue raised from the MOST will be used to roll back rates in the entire water/sewer service area served by Atlanta.** This means that if the MOST passes, the citizens of Atlanta will be subsidizing a reduction in the water/sewer rates for North and South Fulton County. It is important to remember, that the most significant benefit claimed for the sales tax is that it would ensure that individuals who live outside the city but work in the city would contribute to the cost of fixing the water/sewer system. The amount of the water/sewer rate reduction Atlanta's citizens would realize will be reduced because the revenue would be spread over the much larger service area. Any sales tax revenues received from individuals who work in the city (and live in Atlanta's water/sewer service area) would be returned to them via a roll back in their water/sewer rates.



**Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST)**

**Position Paper**

**ABAP City Utilities**

(As Adopted June 19, 2004)

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3. **The state legislation authorizing the MOST contains language which places a cap on the tax paid by the hotel and motel industry.** The applicable section states, "On and after July 1, 2007, the aggregate amount of all excise taxes imposed under paragraph (5) of subsection (a) of Code Section 48-13-51 and all sales and use taxes shall not exceed 14 percent." Currently, the sales and excise tax paid by hotels and motels in Atlanta is 14 percent. The one cent sales tax would increase this amount to 15 percent but only until July 1, 2007. The state legislation language not only exempts the hotel and motel industry from the one cent sales tax after July 1, 2007, it also exempts individuals who visit the city from financially contributing to fixing Atlanta's water/sewer system.
4. **The state legislation authorizing the MOST contains language which exempts the sales of motor vehicles from the sales tax increase.** The applicable section states, "A tax imposed under this article shall not apply to the sale of motor vehicles." Supporters of this exemption focused on several relevant issues but omitted others. First, while it is true that the number of new car dealers in the city of Atlanta is small (four or five), the exemption also applies to a much larger group of used car dealers. Second, the claim that the amount of tax revenue generated would be relatively small due to the small number of new car dealers omits the revenue generating impact of used car sales. Third, the claim that the additional one cent tax would likely drive car buyers to areas with lower sales tax ignores the fact that sales tax on car sales is assessed and paid based on the city/county of residence not the city/county where the vehicle is purchased.
5. **Grocery purchases are included when an optional sales tax such as the MOST is imposed.** The proposed one cent increase will apply to all purchases made within the city of Atlanta including groceries. A number of years ago the sales tax on groceries was phased out in the state of Georgia. The MOST reinstates this regressive tax.
6. **Even if there is a roll back it will not be dollar for dollar.** Before any roll back might go into effect the multi-million dollar revenue shortfall created by the inability of people to pay the 45% onerous rate increase must be satisfied.

There is no doubt that the water/sewer rates that burden Atlanta's citizens must be reduced, but in a way which guarantees rate relief and fairness. As proposed, the MOST would only serve to make a bad situation worse. The benefits claimed by MOST supporters will be diminished and in some cases totally eliminated by the combined effect of exemptions contained in the state authorizing legislation, legal requirements to extend the roll back to the entire water/sewer area, and applying the one cent sales tax increase to grocery purchases.

At a public forum hosted by the League of Women Voters on June 2, 2004, Mayor Franklin stated that the Consent Decree requires the city of Atlanta to immediately notify the EPA if efforts to pay for "the approved" plan are unsuccessful. The positive point here is that rejection of the one cent sales tax will provide the Mayor with an opportunity to declare the overall \$3.7 billion water/sewer plan unaffordable and to ask the EPA for time beyond the 2007 deadline to construct a more affordable solution.

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** June 18, 2004

**TO:** APAB

**FROM:** Sulé Carpenter  
Delegate to the Atlanta Renewal Community CoRA, Inc. Board of Directors

**SUBJECT:** ATLANTA CoRA BOARD ACTIVITY REPORT – Through June 18, 2004

Over the last month, our progress has been fairly slow as we continue to work towards the finalization of the strategic plan and the transfer of authority from the City of Atlanta to the ACoRA Board. Nevertheless, the ACoRA Board members and the ANDP staff are working diligently to get the program underway, and to construct a framework for the effective, efficient, productive and fair utilization of the remaining Title XX funds and Renewal Community incentives.

The management entity is currently working with the State Department of Community Affairs to develop a suitable policy for the Commercial Revitalization Deduction (CRD). This work is critical as the CRD is one of the most significant tax incentives awarded to incentives the relocation of businesses to the Renewal Community. The staff is optimistic that a policy will be in place by mid-June.

With regards to the formal selection of the ACoRA's managing entity, the City of Atlanta will be required to issue a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) and conduct an open bid process to solicit t proposals from organizations seeking to serve as the managing entity. Public notice of this forthcoming RFP will appear in the Fulton County Register. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Stacy Abrams in the City of Atlanta's law Department.



**SHIRLEY FRANKLIN  
MAYOR**

**CITY OF ATLANTA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
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404-330-6145 – FAX: 404-658-7491  
[www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/citydir/dpdnc/planning.htm](http://www.ci.atlanta.ga.us/citydir/dpdnc/planning.htm)

**CHARLES C. GRAVES, III  
Commissioner**

**JAMES SHELBY  
Deputy Commissioner**

## **Commissioner of Planning & Community Development Report to APAB June 19, 2004**

### **American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI)**

The Bureau of Housing was recently awarded the ADDI which was signed into law on December 16, 2003. The American Dream Downpayment assistance Act authorizes up to \$200 million annually for fiscal years 2004-2007. ADDI will provide downpayment, closing costs and rehabilitation assistance to eligible individuals. The amount of assistance provided may not exceed \$10,000 or six percent of the purchase price of the home, whichever is greater.

### **Bureau of Code Compliance**

The Bureau of Code Compliance is currently preparing a brochure to hand out at NPU meetings listing commonly found code violations. This is being done in an effort to better educate citizens as to what constitutes violations. It has long been a complaint from citizens that we prosecute but fail to educate. As a part of this education process we will also provide available avenues for the disposal of junk automobiles. In addition to the Kidney Foundation, The Salvation Army has agreed to produce a handout that will explain their car donation program. Charity Cars, another organization accepting junk automobiles. Additional information about Charity Cars is available in the Code Compliance office.

### **June is National Homeownership Month**

There is a Homeownership Resource Fair scheduled for today, Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center, Building A. The Resource Fair is a one-stop, free forum that offers homebuyers and homeowners the opportunity to learn about the benefits of homeownership from DCA and other real estate and lending industry companies.